

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03263 291356Z

51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 EUR-25 AF-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CCO-00 USSS-00 EB-11 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 DRC-01

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P 291330Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REACTION, OCTOBER 29

1. AL-AHRAM'S HEADLINE, "SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM SADAT TO NIXON BY SPECIAL ENVOY," HIGHLIGHTED MOST PROMINENT THEME IN CAIRO PRESS TODAY.

2. AL-AHRAM AND GUMHURIYYA REPORTED ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMY WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH KISSINGER REGARDING CEASEFIRE AND PEACE RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH AL-AKHBAR REPORTED WHITE HOUSE DENIAL OF FAHMI-KISSINGER MEETINGS.

3. MR. NIXON WAS QUOTED TODAY, AS YESTERDAY, IN ALL THREE MAJOR DAILES AS SAYING "THE CHANCES FOR A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE BETTER NOW THAN THEY HAVE BEEN FOR 20 YEARS." PAPERS ALSO QUOTE MRS. MEIR AS DISAGREEING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON'S POINT OF VIEW.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03263 291356Z

4. QUOTING MA'ARIV, ALL PAPERS REPORTED US IS NOW CALLING UPON ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY TO OCTOBER 22 CEASEFIRE LINES. QUOTING HAARETZ, EGYPTIAN PAPERS REPORTS THAT ISRAEL NOW THINKS AMERICA IS FIRST AGREEING WITH SOVIET UNION AND EGYPT ON CERTAIN MEASURES, AFTER WHICH US NOTIFIES ISRAEL, CONTRARY TO PAST PRACTICE. PAPERS ALSO QUOTED ISRAELI MILITARY COMMENTATOR HAIM HERTZOG SAYING "FACTS OF WORLD POLITICS DURING FOURTH ME WAR HAVE ASSERTED THAT WORLD DOES NOT WANT ISRAEL TO ACHIEVE DECISIVE MILITARY VICTORY." AL-GUMHURIYYA FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE FROM YEDIOT AHRONOT REPORTING THERE WERE DIFFERENCES AT ISRAELI EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING OVER WHETHER OR NOT ISRAEL SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON, AND THAT MAJORITY OF CABINET WAS COMPELLED TO AGREE NOT TO ANGER US, ISRAEL'S ONLY ALLY. PAPERS ALSO CARRIED REUTERS TEL AVIV ITEM ABOUT PRESSURE US APPLIED ON ISRAEL IN REGARD TO CEASEFIRE AND UN RELIEF CARAVAN TO BELEAGUERED EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY.

5. TREATMENT OF RAHMI SPECIAL ENVOY STORY (WITH IMPLICATION THAT TRIP WAS PREARRANGED) AND OTHER ITEMS, MOSTLY FROM ISRAEL, SUPPORTING POINT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DIVERGENCE IN US/ISRAELI RELATIONS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT TODAY'S GOE PRESS PROPAGANDA OBJECTIVE WAS TO IMPRESS UPON EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER READING PUBLIC THAT THERE HAS BEEN, AS SUMMED UP IN AL-AKHBAR HEADLINE, A "MAJOR CHANGE IN AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY."

6. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT GOE BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN US ME POLICY, THE PRACTICAL PURPOSE SERVED BY TREATMENT OF THE NEWS IN THIS WAY IS TO CONVINCE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC THAT US HAS BECOME MORE IMPARTIAL IN REGARD TO ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE. THIS WOULD BE USEFUL IN OFFSETTING POSSIBLE OPPOSITION TO GOE DECISION TO ENTER INTO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS THAT MIGHT QUICKLY FORM ON BASIS THAT US CANNOT BE TRUSTED AS MEDIATOR BECAUSE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TOTALLY ON SIDE OF ISRAEL.

7. CRITICISM OF US FOR OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IN OCTOBER WAR WAS VIRTUALLY NIL IN NEWS COLUMNS AND EDITORIALS. HOWEVER, INCREASING NEWS PLAY IS BEING GIVEN TO SHORT-RANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 03263 291356Z

EFFECTIVENESS OF OIL IN PRESSURING US TO CHANGE ITS ME POLICY EITHER OUT OF CONSIDERATION OF ITS OWN INTERESTS OR THE INTERESTS OF ITS TRADITIONAL WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES.
SMITH

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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